



# Know Loader Safety Rules

A front-end loader is a versatile and valuable tool on any tractor. And through the years, Massey Ferguson tractors and loaders have earned a solid reputation as one of the most productive implement teams in the industry. With a high lifting capacity, durable construction and the convenient Quick-attach system, MF loaders have become a popular asset for many tractor owners.

However, when not operated properly, the tractor-loader combination can be dangerous. Loaders can change the center of gravity and the stability of the tractor if not used according to guidelines as stated in the operator's manual. Such improper use can result in a potential tipping hazard for the tractor.

While it is true that loaders can cause serious injury and property damage if not used and maintained properly, following some simple safety and maintenance guidelines can help you avoid mishaps. Remember to always refer to the operator's and safety manuals for advice on proper use of your equipment. Adopt and follow the motto, "Low and Slow," when it comes to loader use.

## Before Using Loaders

- Install only loaders designed and approved by the tractor manufacturer.
- Never use a loader for removing fenceposts, towing or knocking something down.
- Check with underground utilities before digging below grade level.
- Use ballast to correctly balance the tractor and loader, front to rear.
- Move wheels to the widest practical setting for more stability.
- Be familiar with operator's manuals for both the tractor and the loader.
- Use loaders only for the jobs they're built to handle.
- Use only approved attachments for handling large bales.
- Use a ROPS and wear seat belt.
- Check for hydraulic leaks in hoses and valves. Use a piece of cardboard—not your hand. Pressure leaks can cause severe injury.

## After Using Loaders

- Always lower loaders to the ground when parked.
- Shut off engine and relieve hydraulic pressure, particularly when performing maintenance.
- Make sure detached loaders are parked on a hard, level surface.
- Check to see that loaders are balanced and stable when detached.

## While Using Loaders

- Don't exceed suggested load limits. Load the bucket evenly to prevent upsets and make sure contents fit in bucket.
- Carry loads at a low height and a slow speed.
- Allow room for maneuvering loaders.
- Never move or swing a load over people in the work area.
- Operate loaders only from the operator's seat.
- Never walk or work under a raised loader unless it is securely blocked or held in position.
- Avoid electrical lines, loose fill, rocks and holes.
- Do not work from or ride on loaders.
- Use extra care when working on inclines. When carrying a load, drive forward when going uphill. Back downhill with loads.
- Stop loaders gradually when lifting or lowering.
- Make sure lighting and markings such as SMV symbols aren't obstructed.
- After completing loader work, remove the bucket before using the tractor for other jobs, such as tillage operations.